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◆ The Readers' Column ◆

COLUMNIST EXPLAINS

Editor, Times-Leader News:

I am sorry to have provoked Zionist leaders and readers with suggestions in my column that Harry S. Truman's favoritism toward the new State of Israel was inspired, in part at least, by domestic political considerations. To be frank, having made up his mind to run in 1948, he was seeking and courting the important Jewish element of the electorate. These are the facts!

In reply to these protests, let me quote from Page 345 of the diary of the late James V. Forrestal, our first Secretary of National Defense. He, reports on a luncheon talk with J. Howe and McGrath, then Attorney General and also Democratic National Chairman. At the luncheon, Forrestal allowed McGrath to read a secret Central Intelligence Agency report opposing Truman's policy.

Forrestal "derived several points from McGrath's conversation," reads the diary. "In the first place, Jewish sources were responsible for a substantial part of the contributions to the Democratic National Committee, and many of these contributions were made with a distinct idea on the part of the givers that they will have an opportunity to

express their views and have them seriously considered on such questions as the present Palestine question."

The internal quotes, of course, are McGrath's words.

"I said," Forrestal's footnote continues, "that I hoped Senator McGrath would give a lot of thought to this matter because it involved not merely the Arabs of the Middle East, but also might involve the whole Moslem world with its 400,000,000 people—Egypt, North Africa, India and Afghanistan."

In my opinion, today's happenings confirm Forrestal's Cassandra-like prophecy. I do not understand how an impartial and objective reader can reach any other conclusion than that Truman played partisan politics with a grave international problem which may yet have to be solved with American lives and treasure.

Among the men listed by Forrestal as exerting tremendous pressure on Truman for immediate recognition and support of Palestine were the late Justice Frank Murphy of Michigan, Justice Felix Frankfurter of Massachusetts and Herbert Bayard Swope. The most effective individual, however, according to Forrestal, was the late David K. Niles, Truman's aide in charge of political problems involving "nationalities." Niles was an enthusiastic Zionist.

RAY TUCKER